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## Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

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## rail

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Main Entry: **<sup>1</sup>rail** 🔊

Pronunciation: 'rAl

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *raile*, from Anglo-French *raille*, *reille* bar, rule, from Latin *regula* straightedge, rule -- more at [RULE](#)

**1 a** : a bar extending from one post or support to another and serving as a guard or barrier **b** : a structural member or support

**2 a** : [RAILING](#) **1 b** : a light structure serving as a guard at the outer edge of a ship's deck **c** : a fence bounding a racetrack

**3 a** : a bar of rolled steel forming a track for wheeled vehicles **b** : [TRACK](#) **c** : [RAILROAD](#)

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